

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 ACDA-05 PM-04 DODE-00 NSC-05

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C:WSHINN  
S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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P R 262022Z SEP 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 230180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON OPTION III

REFERENCE: NATO 5149 DTG 201500Z SEP 75

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES MISSION ASSESSMENT THAT BELGIAN  
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PROPOSAL FOR REINFORCED NAC NOW ON OUTSTANDING OPTION III

ISSUES UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE AT THIS POINT AND COULD EVEN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH WE ARE OPPOSED TO REINFORCED NAC NOW, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD NOT OPPOSE GENERAL IDEA OF REINFORCED NAC ON MBFR AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR SEVERAL REASONS

-- OTHER ALLIES MAY FIND IT ATTRACTIVE AND IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR US, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF OUR STRONG ADVOCACY IN PAST OF REINFORCED NACS, TO ARGUE THAT MBFR OR OPTION III IS NOT A FIT SUBJECT FOR TREATMENT.

-- ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT AGREE TO A REINFORCED NAC ON MBFR UNTIL THE NAC HAS APPROVED OPTION III AND THE TIMING OF ITS INTRODUCTION IN VIENNA, THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A MEETING AFTERWARDS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN CONSOLIDATING ALLIED SUPPORT FOR OUR MBFR POLICY PREFERENCES.

-- IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT SOME POINT IN ADVANCE OF DECEMBER MINISTERIAL TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL REVIEW OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, INCLUDING MBFR.

3. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN ANY CONVERSATIONS YOU HAVE:

-- WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF BENEFITS OF REINFORCED NAC DISCUSSION ON OPTION III AS MATTERS STAND AT THIS TIME. POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN TOGETHER IN ORDER TO ARGUE OVER BRACKETS AND NUANCES WHICH CAN BE DEALT WITH BY THE SPC OR BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS.

-- IF OTHER ALLIES, HOWEVER, ARE INTERESTED IN A REINFORCED NAC TO CONSIDER BROADER POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF OPTION III, WE AGREE SUCH A MEETING MIGHT WELL BE USEFUL ONCE THE NAC HAS FINISHED WORK ON THE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG AND DECIDED THE TIMING OF ITS INTRODUCTION IN VIENNA.

-- IN SUCH EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT A REINFORCED NAC WITH POLITICAL DIRECTORS SHOULD BROADEN SCOPE OF ITS DISCUSSION.

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SION. MBFR AND OPTION III SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF DETENTE AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS, LOOKING TOWARD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BY NATO'S FOREIGN MINISTERS IN DECEMBER.

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